

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
JERRY DENNIS, PRESIDENT,
SEIU LOCAL 200UNITED

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the career of Jerry Dennis, who has retired from the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 200United after 37 years of dedicated service.

Jerry lives in Central New York and has tirelessly committed his career to strengthening our middle class and the local economy. He has many achievements to be proud of and deserves our commendation and public recognition for everything he has done for our community.

Jerry started out as a servicing representative for SEIU Local 200 in 1978. He quickly moved up the ranks and was elected president of Local 200 in 1986, after the statewide Local was restructured into four regional entities. Soon after, Jerry turned his focus to organizing new members through the challenging union-busting times of the 1980's and 1990's. Moreover, Jerry helped grow membership by more than 1,000 people in just over a decade.

When SEIU announced that it was working to build industry-focused locals on a state wide basis in 2000, Jerry led the charge in Central New York. With the backing of all five member unions, Local 200United was chartered in 2001, with Jerry as President.

Jerry was elected to the Board of Auditors at the SEIU convention in 2004. Highly regarded in the labor community for his expertise and longstanding record of accomplishments, Jerry was elected to the SEIU Executive Board on June 4th, 2008. In May 2013, Jerry stepped down as president of SEIU Local 200 United. He continues to be involved as a Trustee on the SEIU Local200 Executive Board.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Jerry Dennis for his outstanding record of union and civic leadership and extend our sincere best wishes for a rewarding and gratifying retirement.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALFRED RASCON

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Rascon for over 40 years of dedicated service to the people of this country. Over those years, Lt. Col. Rascon has displayed unparalleled heroism, courage, and dedication to his duties which will serve as an inspiration to servicemen and the American people for years to come. We pay tribute to Lt. Col. Rascon's service as we celebrate him and the other Medal of Honor recipients that are part of today's special order.

Lt. Col. Rascon was born in Chihuahua, Mexico in 1942. His family soon emigrated to Oxnard, California, where the lieutenant colonel graduated from high school and fulfilled his

childhood dream of joining the United States Army. After completing specialist medical and airborne training, Lt. Col. Rascon was eventually deployed to Vietnam.

As a medic, Lt. Col. Rascon assisted countless injured soldiers on the battlefield, but one event in particular exemplifies the remarkable courage he displayed that made him the quintessential Medal of Honor recipient. On March 16, 1966, Lt. Col. Rascon's platoon came under intense fire from an enemy force near the Long Khanh Province. Lt. Col. Rascon crawled under heavy machine gun fire and avoided grenade explosions in order to treat his fellow soldiers, shielding their bodies with his own and suffering grievous injuries from the shrapnel and gunfire that filled the air. After the fighting ceased, he ignored his own wounds, and instead treated the wounded and directed their evacuation.

Lt. Col. Rascon's selfless acts of heroism are remarkable, yet what makes them even more extraordinary is that he only became a United States citizen after he left Vietnam. Lt. Col. Rascon displayed such unparalleled patriotism for our country even before he could officially call it his own.

Lt. Col. Rascon now lives in Maryland's third congressional district and we are proud to call him one of our own. He has continued to serve his country proudly. He returned to Vietnam, then served as a military liaison to Panama and finally completed his service in the Army Medical Service Corps in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Lt. Col. Rascon's heroism and dedication to the United States are an inspiration and are extraordinary reminders of the sacrifices our servicemen and women make for our country every day. I extend him my deepest gratitude for his years of service, and congratulate him once again for his well-deserved Medal of Honor.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JULIUS L. CHAMBERS

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Julius L. Chambers, an extraordinary American, civil rights leader and my friend and mentor, who died on August 2, 2013.

Julius Chambers committed his professional and personal life to improving the lives of others by working tirelessly for civil rights, social justice and human rights. After overcoming substantial odds and graduating number one in his class from the University of North Carolina School of Law, Julius founded the first integrated law firm in North Carolina in 1964. I was fortunate to have had Julius as a source of inspiration and advice throughout my undergraduate and law school years and I was privileged to join his law firm in 1971. Under his leadership, the firm did as much to influence evolving civil rights law as any private law firm in the United States. Julius litigated a number of landmark civil rights cases, including *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* which resulted in the desegregation of Charlotte-Mecklenburg County public schools.

In 1984 Julius left his law firm to become Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense

Fund (LDF) in New York. Under his leadership, the LDF continued to be the leading civil rights organization engaged in defending against legal assaults on civil and constitutional rights.

In 1993 Julius Chambers became the Chancellor of North Carolina Central University, his undergraduate alma mater, where he provided exceptional leadership and continued to be a role model and to have an important influence on young people. Even as he did so, he also continued to make significant legal contributions in the area of civil rights as one of three lawyers who argued the *Shaw v. Hunt* case before the Supreme Court in December 1995. In *Shaw v. Hunt* and a subsequent case, the Supreme Court ultimately upheld the constitutionality of North Carolina's 1st Congressional District and North Carolina's 12th Congressional District, the district I am honored to represent. In fact, during his career Julius Chambers argued a total of nine cases in the United States Supreme Court and won all of them, a record that probably has never been matched.

Mr. Speaker, not only was Julius an outstanding citizen and lawyer, he was also a devoted husband to Vivian Chambers, to whom he was married for 52 years before she predeceased him in June 2012, and he was a loving father to Derrick and Judy.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring and remembering the life of Julius Chambers and celebrating the far-reaching influence of his life. Julius' example and the lasting legacy of his incredible work will continue to inspire me and countless others to continue working to advance us toward a fairer and more just society.

CONGRATULATING MANUEL MUÑOZ

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Manuel Muñoz, an activist and entrepreneur, whose leadership and dedication to his community have played a vital role in ensuring that the residents of Ventura County be informed and engaged on issues of local, national and international importance.

On September 15, 1983, Manuel founded VIDA Newspaper—the only bilingual newspaper in Ventura County. This publication reaches thousands of bilingual individuals in the county, safeguarding and continuously maintaining the right of members of our community to have access to critical news and information. Since its founding, Manuel has served as Publisher and Director of VIDA Newspaper.

Manuel has played a vital role in not only the founding of this publication, but the successful manner in which it has thrived. While journalism and publishing can be a difficult industry and at times an unpredictable one, VIDA Newspaper continues to grow under Manuel's leadership.

Manuel's editorial leadership and proficiency in journalism have been recognized on both a local and national level. Manuel has been the recipient of several resolutions and commendations from the Mexican Government,